

926 Grand Ave
Rockford Ills
May 30th 1888

My dear Mr Watson

I had the Willows
of the Harvard Herb. Gleaner
Arcticae - &c all back in the
box in which they came and
ready to be returned, when I
received a letter from my friend
Houlter in which he says:
"I go to Cambridge next week to
see about getting out a new
edition of my Forest Manual - with
enlarged maps & you want to be
ready to do the Salix work" - Dr
Gray had himself written to
me about this a year ago -

and although I expected that the
work would be carried out by his
successors - I confess the matter
had passed out of mind - and I
was not prepared for the
announcement that already active
measures were being taken to
bring out the proposed new edition
of the Manual - Now instead of
returning what Willows I have
I would like to make another
proposition - Hoping it may
meet the approval of the Curator
of the Zoey herb - So far as I
can judge now I will have
better opportunity for study next
winter than I have ever had -
- If no untoward events break
in upon my plans I will really

have most of my time to give
to Willows - Besides I have just
found a most helpful friend
an correspondent in Mr J. G. Baker
~~from~~ - whom heretofore I have refrained
from asking favors ~~of~~ - Again
in the few sheets in my hands
I was disonayed (as I wrote you)
to find how fearfully some of
my correspondents had misplaced
determinations - given as of "Beth"
- so far from returning what
willows I have now - I would
like next winter to revise the
entire collection - put things in
order - correct blunders of my
own that may be therein

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revealed &c In a word just as
I now look upon a specimen
with one of Carey's tickets - as
decisive for what Mr Carey had
in mind when he wrote the
Billous for the first ed - so
now I would like that the
Gray herbarium should preserve
for future students - my mature
judgements - I realize now the
importance of dating determinations

I go up to one of the Wisconsin
Lakes for the summer months - to
give Mrs Bett and the children
a change and rest - When we
return I have nothing else in
view to occupy most of my time
other than botany - For once I
can play that I am a professional.

Yours very truly
M. S. Bett